

The Commission met on **Thursday, December 16, 2021**, with Chair Sieben and Commissioners Means, Schuerger, Sullivan, and Tuma present.

The following matters were taken up by the Commission:

**P-999/CI-21-72**

**In the Matter of Telephone Assistance Plan Review**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the corrected Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) review submitted on September 17, 2021, for the six-month period ending June 30, 2021.
2. Maintain the current TAP credit and surcharge levels.
3. Remind the companies of the following:
  - a. TAP program benefits remain available for voice service, even when the Lifeline benefit for voice has been eliminated, and is to be advertised no less than annually, as required by Minnesota Statutes section 237.70, subdivision 7(b) (c) and Minnesota Rules parts 7817.0300, subpart 5.B.(4) and 7817.0400, subpart 1.
  - b. A TAP-only application is available on the Commission's website and each company should have a link on its website to the TAP-only application.
  - c. TAP-only applications are to be submitted by the customer directly to the company. Each company is responsible for determining whether the customer applying for the TAP credit is eligible, based on the criteria identified on the application.
  - d. The Commission's June 8, 2018 Order Establishing Auto-enrollment, Use of National Application, and Delegation of Implementation Date in Docket No. P-999/CI-18-223 requires the companies to automatically enroll customers in the TAP program if the customer subscribes to voice service and is being enrolled in the Lifeline program. This auto-enrollment in the TAP program for voice service is to continue, even though the customer's Lifeline benefit applies to broadband service.
  - e. A customer may obtain an eligibility determination to enroll in Lifeline from the National Verifier prior to the customer contacting the company. In the event a customer has been found by the National Verifier to be eligible for Lifeline, that determination may be accepted by the company to enroll the customer in the TAP program if the customer wishes to subscribe to a voice service, independent of whether the customer also subscribes to a broadband service and receives the Lifeline benefit.

4. Restore the \$36,960 balance of the TAP outreach budget until June 30, 2023.

The motion passed 5–0.

**E-002/CI-17-401**

**In the Matter of a Commission Investigation to Identify and Develop Performance Metrics and, Potentially, Incentives for Xcel Energy’s Electric Utility Operations**

Commissioner Schuerger moved that the Commission:

1. Accept the 2021 Performance-Based Ratemaking (PBR) Annual Report of Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy).
2. Require the company to provide contextual data—either by providing the same data for the previous three years or, where applicable, an established industry standard or state policy goal—for each of the approved performance metrics in future annual performance metric reports.
3. Require Xcel Energy to display low-income energy efficiency program participation on a map, overlaid with a map of Areas of Concentrated Poverty (ACPs) in Xcel Energy’s Minnesota territory in its future annual service quality performance reports.
4. Require Xcel Energy to display energy bill assistance program participation on a map, overlaid with a map of ACPs in Xcel Energy’s Minnesota territory in its future annual service quality performance reports.
5. Require the Company to provide three years of data before developing evaluation and benchmarking targets for the performance metric.
6. Require Xcel Energy to include in its PBR annual reports information on: availability of data specific to its gas suppliers on upstream methane emissions; regulation of methane emissions upstream of the Company’s distribution system, and the Company’s position on such regulations; participation in voluntary initiatives to quantify and reduce methane from gas suppliers; any certified gas purchases; pilots with gas marketers to track and source gas with lower associated methane emissions; and any other actions the Company has taken to secure data on and/or reduce upstream methane emissions. No later than 2024, the Company will re-evaluate data available on upstream methane to consider feasibility of reporting of methane emissions attributable to total natural gas purchases across the full fuel cycle (from drilling and extraction to the end-use).

7. Require the Company to include, once the Commission has determined adequate data on upstream methane is available to support utility-specific reporting of such emissions, methane emissions across the full fuel cycle in its calculation of greenhouse gas emissions avoided by electrification of buildings, agriculture, and other sectors.
8. Require the Company to host one or more stakeholder meetings for stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback about the proposed scorecard.
9. Adopt the Workforce Transition metric and require the Company to obtain additional stakeholder feedback into the plan as it is developed for the 2021 annual performance metrics report.

The motion passed 5–0.

#### **E-002/M-21-590**

#### **In the Matter of Xcel Energy’s Petition for Approval of a Power Purchase Agreement with Saint Paul Cogeneration, LLC**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission:

1. Approve the two-year power-purchase agreement (PPA) with Saint Paul Cogeneration, LLC, under Minn. Stat. § 216B.2424, subd. 5c.
2. Authorize Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) to recover the purchased energy costs net of any matching revenues through the Fuel Clause Rider.
3. Require Xcel Energy to include in its electrification proposal a societal cost-benefit analysis, to be developed with input from the Department of Commerce, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Saint Paul Cogeneration, LLC, and other interested parties.
4. Require Xcel Energy to file its electrification proposal by March 2024.
5. Require Xcel Energy to file reports on December 1, 2022 and 2023, and to provide a copy of the reports to the Senate and House chief authors, chairs, and ranking minority members of the committees responsible for passage of the legislation creating Minn. Stat. § 216B.2424, subd. 5c.

The motion passed 4–0, with Commissioner Sullivan abstaining.

**E,ET,IP-999/R-12-1246**

**In the Matter of Possible Amendments to Rules Governing Certificates of Need and Site and Route Permits for Large Electric Power Plants and High-Voltage Transmission Lines, Minnesota Rules, Chapters 7849 and 7850; and to Rules Governing Notice Plan Filing Requirements for High-Voltage Transmission Lines, Minnesota Rules, Part 7829.2550**

Commissioner Tuma moved that the Commission withdraw the proposed rule and authorize the Executive Secretary to notify the Office of Administrative Hearings of its decision.

The motion passed 5–0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION: January 5, 2022**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Seuffert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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**Will Seuffert, Executive Secretary**